

Cause and Effect Relationships

WHAT

- Cause/effect is a relationship that starts with a cause—an action, event, problem, decision, interactions with others or words, from which results or effects occur.
- This is a text structure that you can also find in **fiction and nonfiction**. It's helpful to understand this relationship so you can better comprehend ideas.

HOW

- Identify the cause: an event, action, problem, or words.
- Read the cause statement (and the sentences around the cause statement) to find effects or things that result from the cause.
- Sometimes you can look at an effect as a cause. For example, if there is a huge snowfall and a car skids, the car skidding is the effect of the snowfall. The skidding car can become a cause if it bangs into a parked car and dents the side doors. Causes and effects can create a chain reaction or a chain of events.
- Understanding cause and effect relationships often requires readers to make inferences.

Signal Words for Cause:

because	bring about	contributed to	due to
the reason for	give rise to	led to	since
on account of	created by	produced	caused by
influenced	was responsible for	makes	

Signal words for Effect:

as a result	consequently	hence	so
outcome	therefore	effect	thus
finally	for this reason	then	subsequently
as a consequence	it follows that		

